

CHIEF'S SIGHT PICTURE:
Capabilities Review and Risk Assessment

What happened to the Quarterly Acquisition Review Program (QAPR)? In this Sight Picture, I'll answer that question--but to do so, I first need to give you a sense of the bigger picture in which the answer fits.

The Air Staff is currently working hard to lay the foundation for the next step in our transformation to a capabilities-focused Expeditionary Air and Space Force. Our goal is to make warfighting effects, and the capabilities we need to achieve them, the drivers for everything we do. The centerpiece of this effort is the development of new Task Force Concepts of Operations (CONOPS) that will guide our planning and programming, requirements reform, and acquisition. We have identified seven Task Force CONOPS that we are fleshing out--Global Strike Task Force (GSTF) is a prominent example and is the farthest along in development.

It's in this context the Air Staff has designed a new review to replace the QAPR--we call this new approach a Capabilities Review and Risk Assessment (CRRA). The focus of the CRRA will shift from a program review to a review of how our programs contribute to warfighting capabilities and effects. As with all aspects of our transformation, CRRAs will be centered around Task Force CONOPS.

Let me briefly describe the logic behind the CRRA construct. For our first time out of the chute, we'll review the capabilities that support the GSTF. The CRRA will evaluate the health and risk of each of the required GSTF capabilities over the next 20 years. To accomplish this, we will review acquisition programs and discuss disconnects and prioritization in relation to how the programs support GSTF capabilities. The bottom-line goal for the CRRA is to give senior USAF leadership an operational, capabilities-based focus for acquisition program decisionmaking.

The target for the GSTF CRRA is June 2002. As future Task Force CONOPS are defined, we will hold CRRAs accordingly. SAF/AQ and AF/XO will lead us through this first cycle, with major input from the MAJCOMs. Much work needs to be done through the next four months to make this a successful review, and I need your support so our Air Force can move in the right direction--towards using operational warfighting effects as the origin for every piece of hardware and software we buy.